

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and of the lack of balance and fairness in such a monopolistic media. Repealing the equal time provisions during the Reagan administration was a mistake and equal time laws must be restored to restore fairness and to allow stations to live up to their requirement of broadcasting in the public interest.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, but when large companies, like Sinclair, control the airwaves, the public gets more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we citizens need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard and why the FCC must demand a return to the equal time fairness standard. Thank you.